THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (a) & (b) No request was made to the Government of India for supplying rice in 1958. In March 1959 the Government of India were requested to procure and supply 10,000 tons of Nellore rice in exchange for an equal quantity from the stocks procured by this Government in this State. The Union Government supplied 2,000 tons in response to this request.

Subsequently, the Government of India have agreed to allot up to one lakh tons of rice for this year to compensate for the heavy movements taking place from this State of Kerala. Out of this, they have allotted 15,000 tons in August 1959.

* 28 Q.—SRI K. SATTANATHA KARAYALAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state the quantity of (i) rice and (ii) paddy got through the Centre after May 1959 for our State and their respective prices?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : In April last, the Government of India allotted 2,000 tons of Nellore rice from Andhra Pradesh. They charged Rs. 21·50 per maund f.o.r. Madras in respect of 1,000 tons and Rs. 23 per maund f.o.r. Madras in respect of the remaining 1,000 tons.

In August 1959, the Government of India have made a further allotment of 15,000 tons of raw rice comprising 4,000 tons of Andhra rice and 11,000 tons of Burma rice. The prices of these 15,000 tons have not yet been communicated.

* 29 Q.—SRI K. VINAYAKAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state what are the concessions shown to the millers of paddy so as to encourage import of paddy into our State?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : In order to encourage the import of paddy into this State, the Government have totally exempted the imported paddy as well as the rice obtained from it from the scope of procurement in this State. The Government have also allowed an overall allowance of 39 nP. per maund in addition to actual railway freight over and above the ceiling rates fixed for paddy in the Andhra price notification to the paddy merchants in this State who import paddy from Andhra and sell it as paddy.

* 30 Q.—SRI A. A. RASHEED : Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state whether the Government have received any protest from the merchants regarding the frequent change of the conditions governing the import of paddy from places outside the State and also the sale of paddy?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : No, Sir.

Tanjore rice for Madras

* 30-A Q.—SRI N. K. PALANISAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state—

(a) whether steps have been taken to bring Tanjore rice for Madras in view of the short supply of Nellore rice; and